

## Korean Chests

### Intro.

In 1923 the RAS Council asked Mr. W.W. Taylor to prepare a paper on "Old Korean Chests" - RAS XV (1924) p. 24 (Minutes)

After being invited by the RAS Council to write a paper on "Old Korean Chests" I have had a good deal of trouble in getting material. Both in Japan and Korea there have been very few publications on this subject and the material given in them is not always reliable.

I have now collected a number of photographs of old Korean chests and hope to publish them in the near future. I am sending you a copy of one of the photographs which I have taken.

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### Woods

1. Kurimok, Nutt's name - *Zelkova serrata* Mak. (M.N. Trollope, "Arboretum Coreense", RAS IX, p. 77, 1918)

The keyaki tree. Wrongly identified in Dictionnaire Coréen Français (1880) and  
gale's Korea English Dictionary (1911) as *Sophora Japonica* (which is 桑 or  
豆樹 and quite different). "Both in Japan & Chosen the tree is highly  
prized for cabinet making and other ornamental purposes on account of its  
beautiful grain." - p. 76 In Japan the 木字 is written with the character 檜.

In Japan the wood is used for making jinrikishaws. It is fairly common  
from the neighbourhood of Send Smithward. - S.H. Wilson, "The Vegetation of Korea", ibid p. 11

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### Words

#### 2. Pak-Tal Namu - *Betula Schmidtii* Repel. 檀

"Of the eight species of Birch the most noteworthy is *Betula Schmidtii*, called by the Koreans "Pak-Tal", which has a firm, close-grained wood, heavier than water; this wood is largely exported to China where it is used in making carts. The tree grows on steep, cliff-like ground only, and is never found on volcanic soils; it is abundant on the Diamond Mountains, and its clear, yellow autumnal tints contribute very largely to the Autumn glory of that region." - E. H. Wilson, "The Vegetation of Korea," RAS, IX p. 11 (1918).

"The wood.. is exceedingly hard and heavy, - so heavy that it will not float in water. It is much used by Koreans for making the rollers and mallets used in the process of 'ironing' clothes.

"Near Seoul the name Pak-Tal appears to be applied to the Cornell Tree, *Cornus Konse*. In China the character 檀 is applied to the *Dalbergia Hopeana*, which is not the same as the Pak-Tal.

- M. N. Trollope, "Armenian Crenas," RAS IX p. 79 (1918)

